


- E-16 Adopted Resolution No. 2006-207 approving the bylaws for the Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission.
 - E-17 Adopted Resolution No. 2006-208 approving Year 2006 amendments to Conflict of Interest Code (Government Code §87306.5).
 - E-18 Set public hearing for November 29, 2006, to consider a General Plan amendment and Sphere of Influence amendment to establish an agriculture/greenbelt.
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F. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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- Ken Owen spoke in favor of the "Christ in Christmas" campaign and provided information to the City Council regarding the same.
 - Chuck Easterling urged the City Council to enter a float in the Parade of Lights and/or support an entry. He also stated Bill and Carol Meehleis will be the grand marshals of the parade.

G. COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Council Member Hansen stated he appreciated the citizens' vote of confidence in his reelection and provided general comments about election results. He also reported on the Northern California Power Agency meeting, stating the organization worked on the goals and strategic plan for 2007. Mr. Hansen suggested the City should be competitive in obtaining funds as a result of the passage of Measure K and the State Propositions.
- Council Member Mounce requested a staff presentation regarding a potential community improvement district on the east side.
- Mayor Hitchcock echoed Council Member Hansen's comment on reelection, congratulated Council Member Elect Katzakian, and inquired about apportionment through residences. City Manager King stated additional areas for equitable assessments could be evaluated in another presentation as the original Shirtsleeve presentation regarding the water assessment was based on limited facts.
- Council Member Beckman suggested the City research privatizing; whereby, a private company would build and own the water facility.

H. COMMENTS BY THE CITY MANAGER ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- City Manager King described the new technology in Carnegie Forum and stated the next Shirtsleeve Session would include a legislative update and a presentation regarding the Rail Commission study.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- I-1 Notice thereof having been published according to law, an affidavit of which publication is on file in the office of the City Clerk, Mayor Hitchcock called for the public hearing to consider the following:

- a) Certify the Lodi Annexation Environmental Impact Report as adequate California Environmental Quality Act analysis for the Southwest Gateway Project
- b) Approve the Southwest Gateway Project, which includes an annexation, pre-zoning, Development Agreement, and amendment to the Bicycle Transportation Master Plan to incorporate 305 acres into the City of Lodi to allow construction of 1,230 dwelling units, 5 neighborhood/community parks, and a public elementary school on the west side of Lower Sacramento Road, south of Kettleman Lane, north of Harney Lane (including 565 and 603 East Harney Lane)

Including a City initiated request for the "other annexation areas" (48 acres) for annexation, General Plan amendment, and pre-zoning to avoid creation of a County island NOTE: This item is a quasi-judicial hearing and requires disclosure of ex parte communications as set forth in Resolution No. 2006-31

Christian Community Concerns

November 15, 2006

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CONCERNS IS LAUNCHING OUR SECOND ANNUAL "KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" CAMPAIGN.

The Christmas story is still the greatest story ever told. To think that the creator of the universe would send heavens' best to redeem mankind is the wonder of wonders.

Another story that's almost as amazing as the birth of Jesus is mankind's rejection of the Christmas story.

There seems to be an all out attack to rid our country of any mention or public display of Christ in the Christmas story these days.

Christmas has historically been the most celebrated holiday in America. However, the myth of the so called "Separation of Church & State" has led to so many misconceptions and controversy that many school administrators and public officials are removing "Christ from Christmas" throughout the land. We don't want Lodi to follow them.

Out of concern to not offend shoppers of different beliefs & backgrounds, merchants are also replacing the greeting "Merry Christmas" for happy holidays or Seasons greetings.

"THE END RESULT IS THAT THE OPEN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS IS INCREASINGLY ABSENT FROM THE PUBLIC SQUARE."

According to the "Alliance Defense Fund" A National legal organization this was never the intent of our Founding Fathers. They state that the "U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled that the Constitution requires Government officials to censor Christmas cards or displays, eliminate all references to Christmas, or silence those who celebrate Christ's birth."

TODAY NOVEMBER 15TH IS THE ACTUAL KICKOFF DAY FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

There are numerous organizations across the land who have been bringing lawsuits against Christmas displays throughout the nation for the last several years, but that's

There are numerous organizations across the land who have been bringing lawsuits against Christmas displays throughout the nation for the last several years, but that's beginning to change now because the American people are beginning to say enough is enough.

Although these organizations are losing legal battles all across America, their falsehoods and misinformation still leave a chilling effect in our public schools, and public buildings.

For example, many school and Government officials are now convinced that a public Christmas display or Christmas carol violates the so-called "Separation of church and state."

Changing this false perception, and reclaiming the wonderful traditions you and I grew up with, while ensuring the public is well-informed, will require a very visible effort on our part.

It is our desire to give you factual, reliable, information in order to equip you to know the truth about what you as a Civic Leader can and cannot do in the area celebrating Christmas, and "Separation of Church & State issues."

The campaign will consist of distributing posters to churches, and businesses, as well as presentations such as this one.

We will also be asking citizens to pass out a "Christmas handout Card" to merchants while they are doing their Christmas shopping which says---refer to sample card.

CCC is working closely with the Alliance Defense Fund who first launched their Christmas project in 2003.

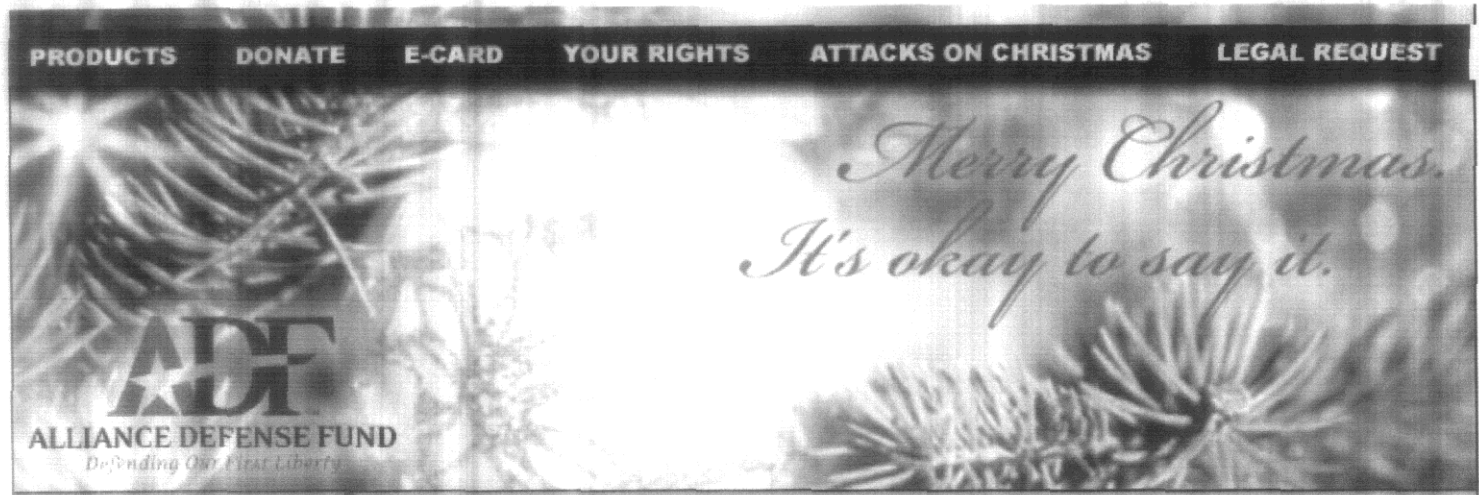
I have included an information sheet from them in your packet.

We're asking everyone that feels the same way we do, to join with us in "KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS."

Thank you and Merry Christmas to all of you and your families

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Owen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ken Owen, Director



Adjust Font Size: A A A

Merry Christmas.
It's okay to say it.™

Christmas is a cherished time of year when Americans come together and celebrate something bigger than ourselves, something that has united us for generations. An event that is the center of all history—the birth of Jesus Christ.

Surveys show that 95% of Americans celebrate Christmas. Yet, due to political correctness, disinformation, and even the threat of lawsuits from the ACLU and its allies, religious expression at Christmastime is increasingly absent from the public square. Slowly, this holy day is being turned into a secular “solstice season.”



*"Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace, goodwill
toward men!"*

-Luke 2:14

The Alliance Defense Fund works year-round to preserve and protect our religious liberties, including the right to...

- ...sing Christmas carols at school*
- ...pass out candy canes to classmates*
- ...call it "Christmas vacation"*
- ...sponsor a nativity scene on public property*
- ...say "Merry Christmas"*

ADF wants all Americans to know the Truth—that they have the freedom to celebrate Christmas publicly, joyfully, and without fear—for generations to come! We are launching our annual national Christmas Project™ to spread the message, **"Merry Christmas. It's okay to say it.™"** Will you join with us?

ADF CHRISTMAS PROJECT MEDIA KIT AVAILABLE AT www.saychristmas.org/docs/mediakit.pdf.

ADF: More than 950 attorneys nationwide ready to combat attempts to censor Christmas

Fourth annual Christmas Project declares, "Merry Christmas. It's okay to say it."

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Alliance Defense Fund announced today it has more than 950 allied attorneys available nationwide to combat any improper attempts to censor the celebration of Christmas in schools and on public property.

"Frankly, it's ridiculous that Americans have to think twice about whether it's okay to say Merry Christmas," said ADF President Alan Sears. "Thanks to the ACLU and its allies, Christmas isn't what it used to be. It's time to repair the damage that such organizations have done to America's favorite holiday. An overwhelming majority of Americans oppose censoring Christmas."

According to recent polls,

- 95 percent of Americans celebrate Christmas (Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, 2005).
- 90 percent of Americans recognize Christmas as the birthday of Jesus Christ (Gallup, 2000).
- 88 percent of Americans say it is okay for people to wish others "Merry Christmas" and the majority of Americans are more likely to wish someone they just met "Merry Christmas" rather than "Happy Holidays" (CNN/USA Today/Gallup, 2004).
- 87 percent of Americans believe nativity scenes should be allowed on public property (Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, 2003).

"ADF's goal once again this season is to inform, educate, and help protect the rights of the 95% of Americans who celebrate Christmas," Sears explained. "It's a sad day in America when you have to retain an attorney to wish someone a Merry Christmas. The fear, intimidation, and disinformation spread by the ACLU and its allies over the years will not be changed overnight. That's why ADF wants to dispel the myths about religious expression at Christmastime that have prompted wrongful acts of government censorship of religious speech."

The purpose of ADF's Christmas Project is to clear up misconceptions about seasonal religious expression on public property:

- The U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled that public schools must ban the singing of religious Christmas carols or prohibit the distribution of candy canes or Christmas cards.
- School officials do not violate the Constitution by closing on religious holidays such as Christmas and Good Friday.
- School officials are not legally obligated to recognize all other religious holidays simply because they officially recognize Thanksgiving or Christmas.